Powerful Warriors

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Being a warrior, especially a warrior in the army of Jesus Christ, is not to be taken lightly. He commands us all to engage in the gift of _____.

> *"If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land."* 2 Chronicles 7:14 (ESV)

My people. That's us, Church.… That verse is solely for the believers.

> When Allies ripped through German defenses in Northern Italy in April of 1945 and surged into the Po Valley, bands of urban partisans in the major industrial cities rose up on signal to join in this victory. In a few days they staged insurrections in Genoa, Milan and Turin.
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> Following carefully laid plans, the partisans quickly seized power stations and factories to prevent their sabotage by the Germans. They captured office buildings, German command posts and radio stations. Bolstered by bands of rural comrades who swept out of the hills, they sealed roads to prevent a German retreat from the cities and then surrounded enemy garrisons. When the Allied troops arrived, anticipating German resistance, they found instead thousands of prisoners of war and proud, jubilant partisan throngs to greet them.
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> *© 1978, The Italian Campaign, Robert Wallace for Time Life Books.*

They were powerful warriors!

More than that – they weren't just all men. Official figures indicate that there were over 35,000 women involved in the uprising – including a small band of 300 who fought in the streets of Florence the day the city was taken from the Nazis.

Like the Italian Partisans, who stood their ground against indescribable odds and emerged to declare themselves "powerful warriors," we can and we must stand against the enemy of our Creator.

> *For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.* (2nd Corinthians 10:3-5).

… through us Christ can and will encourage His people.

> "*God did not give us a Spirit of timidity, but a Spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline*," (2 Timothy 1:7)

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> *"Therefore, I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize,"* (1 Corinthians 9:26-27)

> *"Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses,"*

I pray you study the material that I'm going to give you, and I pray even more that you take it to heart, that you store it up in your basement, and you let Jesus and His word transform you into a powerful warrior.